

FTN

Morgan Rachel Villano
17 Kirby Road
Cromwell, CT

March 6, 2014

Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Regarding: Raised Bill No. 5249

AN ACT CONCERNING COPAYMENTS FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES

Dear Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

I am a dedicated Occupational Therapist with 15 years of clinical experience; for the past five years I have provided medically reasonable and necessary Occupational Therapy services within the home health industry. I work closely with both Physical and Speech Therapy in an effort to optimize the safety and independence of all patients.

I am writing to you in request that Raised Bill No. 5249 passes, which would be an extension of last year's Public Act No. 13-307 (House Bill 6546); this House Bill/Public Act from last year similarly limited the co-payments for physical therapy services.

In all rehabilitation treatment settings a multi-disciplinary philosophy focusing on patient centered care is necessary and leads to powerfully positive patient outcomes; this approach is driven by the coordinated efforts between Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists and Speech Language Pathologists. Patient progress demands collaboration between all rehabilitation therapists. Occupational Therapy services focus on patient strengths in an effort to overcome the impact of disease and disability; tapping into a patient's valued activities allows an Occupational Therapist to promote accomplishment, improved self-efficacy, and often shifts a patient's perspective from that of being a patient to being a successful human being who is engaging in their valued daily routine.

I recently treated a patient who is a person living with a chronic and persistent mental illness; her depression was so severe that she stopped caring for her body and her environment and then became reliant on others to do this for her. While Physical Therapy focused on physical conditioning and fall prevention strategies, I was using the Motivational Interviewing tool to hone in on the patient's abilities, locus of control and willingness to change her negative thought patterns. Seven Occupational Therapy

treatment sessions later this woman had re-engaged in valued social activities, was showering independently, had cleaned and straightened her room by herself and was reporting decreased signs and symptoms of depression. At her discharge treatment she thanked me for believing in her – it was the first time in two years that she was assuming responsibility for her life.

Access to care for patients is extremely important and too many times financial limitations due to insurance coverage inequity prevents patients from receiving medically necessary services; I am asking you to please support Raised Bill No. 5249 so that patients may receive the Occupational Therapy treatment they need for optimal health.

Thank you for your time and please know that I am always available to answer any questions you may have; my contact information is below.

Sincerely,

Morgan Rachel Villano

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